

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-04
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE
CINCLANT NORFOLK IMMEDIATE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII IMMEDIATE 0000
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
SAC OFFUTT NEBRASKA IMMEDIATE
REDCOM MACDILL AFB FLA IMMEDIATE
COMJTF7A FORT BRAGG IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG, FR, BE

SUBJECT:WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ON ZAIRE OPERATIONS; GUIDANCE

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS MADE BY THE WHITE HOUSE
SPOKESMAN AT 1225 WASHINGTON TIME. GUIDANCE FOLLOWS:

BEGIN STATEMENT: THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS, TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE, HAVE ASKED FOR U.S. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN CONNECTION WITH OPERATIONS WHICH THE BELGIANS AND FRENCH ARE UNDERTAKING TO PROTECT FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE AREA OF KOLWEZI IN SHABA PROVINCE, ZAIRE. TO CARRY OUT THIS OPERATION THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS ASKED US TO PROVIDE AIRLIFT SUPPORT TO DESTINATIONS IN ZAIRE OUTSIDE THE AREA OF CONFLICT. WE HAVE AGREED TO THOSE REQUESTS AND OUR SUPPORT OPERATIONS ARE NOW IN PROGRESS. END STATEMENT.

GUIDANCE:

Q. WHAT PRECISELY DID WE DO?

A. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ASKED US:

--TO TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FUEL TO KAMINA AIRFIELD, LOCATED 130 MILES NORTH OF THE TOWN OF KOLWEZI SUFFICIENT FOR THE NEEDS OF THE OPERATION.

--TO TRANSPORT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF AMMUNITION OF BELGIAN MANUFACTURE TO KINSHASA FROM BELGIUM.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ASKED US:

--TO TRANSPORT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FROM CORSICA TO LUBUMBASHI. WE AGREED TO THESE
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REQUESTS.

Q. WHEN DID THE SUPPORT OPERATION BEGIN?

A. ON MAY 18.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE AREA?

A. THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS KNOWN TO BE IN KOLWEZI NOW STANDS AT 14, INCLUDING 4 MORRISON-KNUDSEN EMPLOYEES, 8 MISSIONARIES, ONE GECAMINES EMPLOYEE (GECAMINES IS THE COPPER COMPANY), AND ONE TOURIST. THEIR STATUS IS (BRING UP TO DATE BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE.)

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US DETAILS ON THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH OPERATIONS?

A. NO, I CAN'T. THOSE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE BELGIANS AND THE FRENCH.

Q. WELL, CAN YOU TELL US WHEN THEY REQUESTED USG SUPPORT?

A. WE RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE BELGIANS

WEDNESDAY, FROM THE FRENCH THURSDAY. VARIOUS
CONTINGENCIES WERE DISCUSSED EARLIER.

Q. HAS CONGRESS BEEN CONSULTED CONCERNING THE U.S.
INVOLVEMENT IN THIS OPERATION?

A. SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE DISCUSSED THIS
MATTER WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.

Q. WHO HAS BEEN CONSULTED?

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A. THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.

Q. WHAT HAS BEEN THE REACTION OF THOSE CONSULTED?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THESE CONVERSATIONS.

Q. WERE THESE CONSULTATIONS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE WAR
POWERS RESOLUTION?

A. NO (SEE ANSWER TO NEXT QUESTION).

Q. DOES THE PRESIDENT INTEND TO SUBMIT A FORMAL REPORT
TO CONGRESS, PURSUANT TO THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION,
CONCERNING THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THIS OPERATION? NO?
WHY NOT?

A. NO. U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE OPERATION DOES NOT FALL
WITHIN THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES TO WHICH THAT RESOLUTION
APPLIES.

Q: WHAT ABOUT POLITICAL CONSULTATION?

A: WE INFORMED A NUMBER OF AFRICAN AND OTHER GOVERN-
MENTS, INCLUDING THE CURRENT AND UPCOMING PRESIDENTS OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN UNITY, ABOUT OUR ASSISTANCE
IN THE EFFORT.

Q: WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? WHY COULDN'T THE BELGIANS AND
FRENCH HAVE DONE IT ALONE?

A: BECAUSE THEY NEEDED HELP.

Q: WHAT FORM DID THE REQUEST TAKE?
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A: BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN.

Q: WHAT IS THE REASON FOR OUR INVOLVEMENT?

A: OUR PARTICIPATION IS TO SUPPORT THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH OPERATION TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

Q: DID THE 82ND AIRBORNE PARTICIPATE IN THIS OPERATION?

A: NO. NO U.S. COMBAT PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED.

Q: ARE THERE ANY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL ON THE GROUND IN ZAIRE?

A: AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, THE PERSONNEL WITH OUR SUPPORT OPERATION ARE AIR CREWS AND LOGISTICS PERSONNEL. BEFORE HOSTILITIES BEGAN, WE HAD A SIX-MAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION IN KINSHASA. IT HAS NOT BEEN AUGMENTED. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE THREE OFFICERS IN THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE. VANCE

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